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Housing costs - how does the NT compare?

NT households spent a similar proportion of their gross income on housing costs as the rest of the nation in 2007–08, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data released today.

NT households that owned their home outright spent about 2% of their gross income on housing costs, while households that were paying off a mortgage or renting spent about 16%.

The share of NT households that own their home outright nearly doubled (from 10% to 19%) during the 10 years to 2007-08, but remained significantly lower than the national proportion of 33%.

Litchfield Shire and Palmerston-East Arm had the highest proportions of dwellings owned with a mortgage in 2006, accounting for 53% and 45% of all dwellings in those areas respectively. Bathurst-Melville had the highest proportion of dwellings being rented (92%).

NT dwelling unit completions rose by 42% overall in 2008–09, with a 64% rise in private sector completions offsetting the 45% decrease in public sector completions.

Further information is in *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory* (cat. no. 1362.7), available for free download from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au. The next issue of the publication will be released in August 2010.

When reporting on ABS data, please attribute either the Australian Bureau of Statistics or ABS as the source.

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